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REMARKS

Applicant has received and reviewed an Office Action dated June 29, 2006, which is in the form of a restriction and species election requirement. By way of response, Applicant presents the remarks below including selection of a group of claims and election of species. Claims 78–130 are pending. Claims 85 and 86 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 76, 81, 86, 90 and 98 have been amended. New claims 131–146 have been added. No new matter is presented. Applicant submits that the pending claims are supported by the specification.

For the reasons given below, Applicant submits that the pending claims are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Restriction Requirement

Without acquiescing to the statements made in the Restriction Requirement, Applicants elect with traverse the claims of Group I (claims 79–86 and 98) for prosecution in the present application. Applicants traverse the Restriction Requirement, because it would not be unduly burdensome for the Examiner to search and examine all the claims. Withdrawal of the restriction requirement and examination on the merits are respectfully requested.

Applicants acknowledge that claims 78 and 90 are linking claims (for Groups I, II and III) and that rejoinder may be possible.

Species Election Requirement

Applicants elected to prosecute the claims of Group I with traverse. Within this group, the Examiner requires restriction of the pending claims to a single disclosed species of coupling the building blocks of the invention to the support. Applicants respectfully traverse this requirement. The inventive concept herein is not dependent on the use of a particular type of bond to couple the building blocks to the support. Rather, the inventive concept is a method of making a heterologous building block array, comprising building blocks coupled to a support and capable of binding various ligands. Applicants respectfully submit that all of the asserted species can be readily searched and examined together as single group, and request search and

examination of compositions comprising any type of coupling between the building blocks and the support.

Species of Coupling

Applicants acknowledge the designation of claims 99–102, 103, 104 and 124 as generic.

The Examiner requires restriction of the pending claims to a single species of coupling, i.e. coupling by covalent bond, electrostatic interaction or a mixture thereof.

If the species election requirement is maintained, Applicants elect the covalent bond species, and submit that each of the pending claims 78–86, 105–111 and 138–143 includes or reads on the elected species. Applicants request search and examination of the same.

Species for Noncovalent Coupling

Applicants acknowledge the designation of claims 100, 102, 103, 104, 116, 126, 127, 128 and 130 as generic.

The Examiner requires restriction of the pending claims to a single species of building blocks, comprising one of negative charge, positive charge, hydrogen bond donor, hydrogen bond acceptor, hydrophobic moiety, or a combination thereof.

If the species election requirement is maintained, Applicants elect the hydrogen bond donor species, and submit that each of the pending claims 78, 90, 96, 97 and 121–122 includes or reads on the elected species. Applicants request search and examination of the same.

Species for Covalent Coupling and Specific Species of Covalent Bond

Applicants acknowledge the designation of claims 78 and 79 as generic.

The Examiner requires restriction of the pending claims to a single species of covalent bonding between a specified group of the building block and a specified group of the support.

If the species election requirement is maintained, Applicants elect the species wherein a covalent bond is formed between a carboxyl group of the building block and an amine group of the support, or vice-versa (as recited in claim 79). Applicants submit that each of the pending claims 78–86, 105–111 and 138–143 includes or reads on the elected species.

In response to the Examiner's requirement that the pending claims be restricted to a single species of coupling comprising a specified bond, Applicants elect the species comprising

an amide bond between the building block and the support (as indicated in claim 84). Applicants request search and examination of the same.

Species for Electrostatic Bonding

Applicants acknowledge the designation of claims 87–89, 90–93, 105, 112–115, and 116–120 as generic.

The Examiner requires restriction of the pending claims to a single species of electrostatic bonding between a specified group of the building block and a specified group of the support.

If the species election requirement is maintained, Applicants elect the species wherein an electrostatic bond is formed between amine or carboxyl group of the building block and amine or carboxyl group of the support (as in claim 87), and submit that each of the pending claims 78, 87–89, 91–95, and 112–120 includes or reads on the elected species. Applicants request search and examination of the same.

Species for Hydrogen Bond Interaction

Applicants acknowledge the designation of claims 90, 96, 97, 121 and 122 as generic.

The Examiner requires restriction of the pending claims to a single species of coupling by a hydrogen bond donor or acceptor. If the species election requirement is maintained, Applicants elect the species wherein the coupling comprises interaction between a hydrogen bond donor of the building block and a hydrogen bond acceptor of the support, or vice-versa (as in claim 97, for example). Applicants submit that each of the pending claims 78, 90, 96, 97 and 121–122 includes or reads on the elected species. Applicants request search and examination of the same.

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SUMMARY

Applicants submit that the claims of the present application are in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below, if the Examiner believes that doing so will advance prosecution.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: 30 Oct '06

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